



## A Searching Look At the RFK Assassination

**The Assassination of  
Robert F. Kennedy: A  
Searching Look at the  
Conspiracy and Cover-  
Up 1968-1978**

By William W. Turner and Jonn  
G. Christian. Random House; 397  
pp.; illus.; \$12.95.

*By Jean Collins*

*"The important thing to know  
about assassinations is not who  
fired the gun, but who paid for  
the bullets." (From Epilogue)*

**R**ECENTLY there were congressional investigations into the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., but not into the last of the murder trilogy, that of Robert Kennedy. One reason for this omission may be that RFK's killer, unlike the others, was convicted at a trial. Everyone knows Sirhan B. Sirhan was the murderer. Or was he?

After 10 years of intensive research, authors Turner and Christian aren't sure. They believe we don't have all the answers to the RFK assassination, nor have many good

shot him! We killed him!" But the L.A. Police Dept. discounted all such evidence.

The LAPD's role is certainly bizarre. They tried to get witnesses to alter stories; records were destroyed. According to the authors, the LAPD was "stone-walling" the case; J. Edgar Hoover shut the "FBI door," and D.A. Evelle Younger "made it abundantly clear he would resist any attempt to reopen the investigation."

Sirhan's trial itself showed little except the inadequacy of our adversary court procedures: The prosecution's only interest was in conviction; the defense's sole aim was acquittal. Neither side permitted evidence that might detract from these goals.

Strangest of all, Sirhan claims no memory of the shooting. His notes, written before the murder (and reproduced in this book), are weird. Since he wasn't on drugs, hypnosis was considered. A few years ago, "hypnoprogramming" would have seemed ludicrous. Now, with so many oddities, it's no longer unlikely, especially since we learn Sirhan disappeared for three months in 1967.

It's now a decade since the RFK assassination on the night he won the California primary, which put him closer to the Presidency than any other Democrat. His murder may well have "changed the course of American history." Robert Kennedy, like his assassinated brother, was well-liked. Among his admirers was Sirhan B. Sirhan who said, "I thought he was heir apparent to President Kennedy and I wish to hell he could have made it. I loved him."

This well-documented book raises many doubts about the entire case. It also provides good questions yearning for answers, for "another assassination could be upon us at any time."

questions been asked.

For one, what was Sirhan's motive? Although born in Jordan, he'd never before shown political interest. Then, Sirhan was standing in front of Kennedy when the latter was shot. Why were the fatal wounds in back of the head? There were also too many spent bullets (some of the wrong size) for Sirhan's gun. The nation saw Sirhan shoot, but did he kill Kennedy?

Several peripheral characters, such as "Reverend" Jerry Owen and "the girl in the polka-dot dress," weren't given credence. Owen claimed he met Sirhan as a hitchhiker the day before the assassination. Yet, they were seen together earlier. The girl in the polka-dot dress was heard by several witnesses to say gleefully: "We